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ANTI-TERRORISM TASK FORCE
WRAPS UP INITIAL STRATEGY SESSIONS

United States Attorney Mac Cauley today announced that several anti-terrorism strategy sessions have taken place over the last few weeks throughout the Middle District of Florida. Today a session was held in Tampa and earlier this month, and in late September, similar meetings took place in Jacksonville, Orlando and Ft. Myers. Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies have been invited to these strategy sessions to address three goals and objectives that Attorney General John Ashcroft outlined on September 18, 2001. Mr. Ashcroft asked each of the 94 U.S. Attorney's throughout the country to establish an Anti-Terrorism Task force with the following mission:

- 1) Serve as a **conduit for information** about suspected terrorists between federal, state and local agencies. Intelligence about terrorist networks obtained by federal agencies will be disseminated through the task force to local law enforcement who can help monitor any terrorist network in their area. Also, any intelligence gathered by local law enforcement can be conveyed through this task force.
- 2) Serve as a coordinating body for implementing the **operational plan** for the prevention of terrorism. Once substantial credible information is received indicating that individuals or groups in a particular city or area are abetting terrorism or aiding terrorism, the members of the anti-terrorism task force, in conjunction with the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, will determine and implement the most effective strategy for incapacitating any terrorist activity.
- 3) Serve as a standing **organizational structure** for a coordinated response to any terrorist incident in that district.

"These meetings have renewed the already excellent working relationship we enjoy with our law enforcement partners throughout the Middle District of Florida. I believe that as a result of these planning sessions we are teamed up and on track in the effort to keep our communities safe from terrorism," stated Mr. Cauley.